

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 NEA-10 SY-10 USSS-00 A-01 IO-15

EB-11 SCA-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 /202 R

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APPROVED BY:AF:DDNEWSOM

AF/N:JJBLAKE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194374

C O R R E C T E D COPY (OMISSION LINE ONE OF PARA THREE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF BSO TERRORISTS

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 186720; (B) KHARTOUM 2147

1. SUDANESE AMBASSADOR HAMZA REQUESTED TO SEE ASSIST.
SECRETARY NEWSOM SEPTEMBER 27. CONVERSATION DEVOTED EX-
CLUSIVELY TO TERRORIST TRIAL. HAMZA CONVEYED SUBSTANCE
OF FONMIN KHALID'S AND FONMIN UNDERSEC OBEID'S DISCUSSIONS
THIS SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR BREWER, GIST OF WHICH WERE
GOS ASSURANCES THAT TRIAL WOULD TAKE PLACE AND JUSTICE
WOULD BE DONE ACCORDING TO SUDANESE JUDICIAL PROCESSES.
HAMZA ALSO MADE POINT THAT GOS WISHED AVOID COMPLICATION
OF HAVING NON-SUDANESE ARAB LAWYERS PARTICIPATE IN TRIAL.
GIVEN IMPRISONMENT SUDANESE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, ARRIVAL
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OF SUCH OUTSIDE ATTORNEYS COULD BE EXPECTED IF NO DELAY
GRANTED.

2. ASSIST. SECRETARY NEWSOM RECALLED CONTEXT OF PRIOR DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT (REFTEL A), INVOLVING UNPUBLISHED PRESS REPORTS THAT LONG DELAY IN TRIAL MIGHT OCCUR. HE STATED THAT HIS PURPOSE HAD BEEN TO CONVEY REALITY OF THIS ISSUE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SUDAN AND TO POINT OUT THAT DELAY WHICH SEEMED UNREASONABLE COULD AFFECT BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

3. HAMAZ EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EXTENT TO WHICH USG HAS ITSELF SHOULDERED PRESSURE TO KEEP IT OFF GOS. HE SAID HE HAD REPORTED THIS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HAMZA RAISED DISTINCTION BETWEEN INDEFINITE AND UNREASONABLE DELAY WHICH DISCUSSED IN REFTEL B. BEGIN FYI: IN FACT, IN PRIOR DISCUSSION ASST. SEC. NEWSOM HAD POINTED OUT PROBLEMS WHICH EITHER INDEFINITE OR UNREASONABLE DELAY MIGHT CAUSE. END FYI. NEWSOM SAID HE THOUGHT ESSENTIAL POINT WAS THAT GOS UNDERSTOOD SERIOUSNESS OF THIS ISSUE TO USG.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH DEPTOFF, HAMZA COVERED MUCH OF SAME GROUND, BUT ALSO WORRIED, SPECULATIVELY, ABOUT FURTHER POSSIBLE TRIAL POSTPONEMENT AFTER NOVEMBER 13. DEPTOFF ASKED WHETHER GOS WAS WILLING TO KEEP GRANTING DELAYS AS LONG AS DEFENSE KEPT REQUESTING THEM. HAMZA INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WAS CLEAR -- TRIAL WILL TAKE PLACE. CONTEXT INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS CONCERNED THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER POSTPONEMENTS. KISSINGER

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